

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following new paragraph at page 3, line 3:

FIG. 2 illustrates example data packaging using a variety of protocols.

Please add the following new paragraphs at page 8, line 14:

FIG. 2 illustrates three alternative data transport approaches to transport an MPEG-2 stream. A first means to carry MPEG-2 transport stream between the head-end edge (e.g. QAM or CMTS) and the subscriber premises can be a baseline stream comprising a multiplexed MPEG-2 Multiple Program Transport Stream (MPTS) over QAM. The ability to process MPEG-2 transport over QAM allows for backwards compatibility.

A second means to carry an MPEG-2 transport stream between the head-end edge and the subscriber premises can be referred to as an Extended 1 stream. This Extended 1 stream comprises multiplexed audio and visual (AV) program information with modem protocol data, such as data over cable service interface specifications (DOCSIS) data. Packet identifier (PID) 0x1FFE can be used for MPEG-2 transport packets carrying the DOCSIS payload, and other PIDs can be used for other various video streams. This Extended 1 stream could be used in addition to the Baseline stream to support advanced video-based multimedia services that are integrated with data over cable services.

A third means to carry MPEG-2 transport stream between the head-end edge and the subscriber premises can be referred to as an Extended 2 stream. This Extended 2 stream comprises AV data carried over IP and delivered over modem protocol (e.g., DOCSIS) channels. This allows services such as IP-based streaming media to the digital set-top box. It is possible that AV data can be carried over MPEG-2 transport stream and/or real-time transfer protocol (RTP) or other protocols before the AV data is sent over transmission control protocol (TCP) or user datagram protocol (UDP) packets.